

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patents granted to Scheucher (5,731,650) in view of Shiah et al. (5,610,467). After carefully studying the Examiner's comments, the cited references, and the instant application, the Applicants respectfully request entry of amendments to independent claim 1. Furthermore, the Applicants also request consideration of new claims 37-41.

As to Claim 1, it has been amended to distinguish over the combination of Scheucher and Shiah, by reciting that the brush retainers open in a mouth toward the fan assembly. It should also be pointed out that claim 1 also sets forth that the brush retainers are formed on the end plate assembly, as such, the mouth provides an opening within the portion of the end plate where the brush retainer is disposed. In distinct contrast, neither Scheucher or Shiah provide, either singly or in combination, a brush retainer that opens in a mouth that faces the fan assembly. Indeed, both of the cited references disclose that a solid wall is provided between the retained brush and the fan assembly. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable as the combination of Scheucher and Shiah does not teach each and every limitation of the claim. Moreover, claims 6-10, which depend from allowable claim 1, are likewise allowable.

New claims 37-41 are directed to a motor-fan unit which includes motor brackets that extend from the end plate assembly toward the motor and which are adapted to support the motor assembly. It is respectfully submitted that none of the prior art made of record teach or suggest such a construction.

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments presented herein, the Applicants believe that they have properly set forth the invention, and accordingly, respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections provided in the last Office Action. A formal Notice of Allowance of claims 1, 6-10, and 37-41 is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner care to discuss any of the foregoing in greater detail, the undersigned attorney would welcome a telephone call.

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Deposit Account No. 18-0987. If a withdrawal is required from Deposit Account No. 18-0987, the undersigned Attorney respectfully requests that the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks cite Attorney Docket Number ALE.4570.80A for billing purposes.

Respectfully submitted,



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